



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1406 Longworth House Office Building • Washington, D.C. 20515 • (202) 225-5506

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 4, 2004

Contact: Stephanie Lundberg
Phone: 202-225-5506

Chippewa Valley Tech. College President Makes Case for Technical Education

Ihlenfeldt's testimony emphasizes the importance of technical education in workforce training

Washington, DC – U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (WI) introduced the live testimony of Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) President Dr. William Ihlenfeldt today during an Education Committee Hearing on strengthening vocational education. Dr. Ihlenfeldt's testimony highlighted the success of CVTC in meeting the demands of the changing economy and emphasized the important role of technical colleges in skill training and workforce development.

"Dr. Ihlenfeldt has been at the forefront of many innovative projects during his tenure at the Chippewa Valley Technical College, and I am pleased that he could join us today to present his knowledgeable and thoughtful perspective," stated Kind before the Committee. "His testimony will shed light on the critical importance of the Perkins Act and how it has helped improve education and job training for our nation's workforce."

The House Education and Workforce Committee, of which Rep. Kind is a member, is in the process of reauthorizing the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act, which provides secondary and post secondary vocational and technical education programs with federal assistance. During the reauthorization process, Committee members hear testimony from administrators, educators, students and employers from around the nation on the effectiveness of the program.

"Employers today need a continuous and rapid flow of graduates and continuous training to meet the dynamic needs of today's economy," stated Dr. Ihlenfeldt in his testimony. "Technical colleges provide the gateway to this nation's workforce by serving as the vital link between secondary schools and senior post-secondary institutions; no other system in this country can provide that direct impact on our workforce and do it as rapidly as the technical college system. Perkins funding is critical in helping technical colleges achieve their goals."

Our technical colleges are putting our dollars to work; they are putting America to work, and they are doing it in a cost effective manner," stated Kind. "In addition to reauthorization of the Perkins Act, I have already been pushing to ensure adequate funding for Perkins in the budget because I recognize, as Dr. Ihlenfeldt's testimony today underscores, how critical Perkins is to the overall effort to train and retrain workers."